Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/12/29: CIA-RDP90B01390R000300380018-7 011 86-0047 Office of Legislative Liaison **Routing Slip** TO: ACTION INFO 1. D/OLL 2. DD/OLL 3. Admin Officer 4. Liaison 5. Legislation 7. 8. 9. 10. SUSPENSE STAT **Action Officer:** Remarks: STAT Name/Date

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GAO has initiated a study of U.S. participation in international natural gas contingency planning, with particular focus on the results of U.S. efforts to prevent the allies over-dependence on Soviet natural gas in Europe. GAO intends to (1) determine the current levels of dependence by International Energy Agency (IEA) member states on natural gas imports from insecure sources, (2) assess the U.S. and IEA roles in improving international natural gas contingency planning, (3) ascertain what improvements have been made in recent years to reduce natural gas supply vulnerability, and (4) evaluate the steps taken to enhance natural gas security of U.S. and NATO military components stationed in certain European countries.

This study will, in part, be a follow up of GAO's report on "European Alternatives to Supporting Soviet Natural Gas" (GAO/ID-83-31, May 16, 1983). In preparing that report, the GAO staff met with CIA representatives and obtained useful information on Western European natural gas requirements in the 1990's. The GAO staff was also provided with a number of studies prepared by the Office of Global Issues concerning Soviet natural gas sales to the West.

The GAO staff would appreciate meeting with CIA representatives to get an update of events concerning this issue.

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